

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
AGRICULTURAL FUEL SECONDARY CONTAINMENT FACILITY
(No.)
Code 701

DEFINITION

Permanently located above ground structures designed to provide storage and secondary containment of on-farm fuel. Fuels include gasoline, diesel, and kerosene. The storage tanks have mounted dispensers and exposed piping.

PURPOSE

To minimize risk of accidental release of stored fuels, used in agricultural operations, into ground and surface waters.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On farms where fuel storage facilities are used or will be used. This practice does not address the removal of old tanks. Removal must be done in accordance with EPA and state regulations.

CRITERIA

Structures and siting shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Maine Department of Public Safety oversees any above ground tank storing greater than 60 gallons of flammable and/or combustible liquids.

Fuel Storage Facility

1. Storage tanks must be above ground atmospheric or low pressure tanks that meet or exceeds the UL-142 standard.
2. Secondary containment shall be double walled tanks or an impermeable structural barrier containing 110% capacity of the original storage. Earthen barriers shall not be used. Rain, snow,

and debris shall be prevented from accumulating in the outside barrier of the containment.

3. The fuel storage tanks shall be protected from accidental contact by vehicle, tractors, and other farm equipment.
4. Provide adequate ventilation to prevent the development of vacuum or pressure exceeding the design pressure as a result of filling, emptying, or atmospheric temperature changes.
5. Any single structure containing greater than 660 gallons or a combined farm total of greater than 1320 gallons must have a private professional engineer develop a Spill Prevention, Control, and Counter-measure (SPCC) Plan as regulated by EPA. The plan is not the responsibility of NRCS.

Safety

1. Fuel storage facilities shall be properly marked with signs. A no smoking sign shall be placed near the fueling area. Fill ports shall be painted with the proper paint code; Gasoline-Red, Diesel-Yellow, and Kerosene-Brown.
2. Develop a contingency plan to address the event of accidental spillage.
3. In the event of a spill, immediately call 1-800-482-0777

CONSIDERATIONS

1. Evaluate the potential risk to water quality associated with agricultural fuel storage planned or present on the farm. Avoid areas:
 - Closer than 300 feet from a well
 - Closer than 25 feet to major traffic patterns
 - Closer than 10 feet to any building

- Where risk of vandalism is high
2. Minimize the amount of wood used in roof construction to reduce flammability.
 3. Contact insurance carrier regarding placement of tanks near buildings.
 4. Fuel tanks should have a fuel level gauge and all piping and connections to tanks should be at the top centerline of the tanks to avoid leaks.
 5. Install automatic shutoff valves on electrically operated dispensers.
 6. When buried tanks need to be removed, a qualified tank remover, according to state and federal regulations should accomplish the job, and contaminated material disposed of according to law. This operation is not covered under this standard.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for constructing this practice shall be prepared in accordance with the criteria contained in this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Storage tanks shall be inspected monthly.
Look for:

- Leaks
- Rust or corrosion
- Accumulation of trash or weeds
- Proper labeling and signage
- Condition of valves, fittings and hoses
- Collected precipitation

Do not pump out or remove collected water from containment until it is determined the collected water is free of residual fuel. Perform maintenance as needed. Records of inspection and repair will be kept. If a SPCC Plan is required, review yearly, and conduct employee training on the contents of the plan.

REFERENCES

State of Maine, Office of State Fire Marshal
“Rules and Regulations for Flammable and Combustible Liquids,” January 1991

Underwriters Laboratories, Standard No. 142, “Standard for Steel Aboveground Tanks for Flammable and Combustible Liquids”

Environmental Protection Agency, Oil Pollution Prevent Regulation web site, last updated August 2000